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United for Quality Care

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Ansonia

Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Loriette Thompson, I live in Ansonia, and I've worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in nursing homes for three years. I come before you today in support of fully funding our nursing homes.

As a LPN I conduct medication administration, change of conditions assessment, wound assessment, monitor vital signs, provide emotional support, and help members with socialization. These services are important for my residents. The care my coworkers and I give shows our residents that someone really cares for them and is there to protect them and help them live a dignified life. That is why I love my job. As hard as it is, I love this job because I'm able to help people that can't do everyday things like you and I can. The relationships I am able to build with my residents and the things I'm able to learn from my residents is what makes this job great.

With that said, short staffing, underfunding, and a lack of transparency makes working in a nursing home incredibly difficult. Working short staffed all the time takes a toll on my home life, because by the time I get home I am exhausted and have little time for my family. I also worry about my residents. I know my coworkers and I are doing our best, but when you're working short you cannot guarantee your residents are receiving quality care and you can't ensure their safety. Short staffing means more residents will fall and have no one there to catch them. Short staffing means residents will go without showers or other amenities we all take for granted. At the end of the day, residents are the ones who suffer when nursing homes are short staffed.

We can solve these issues by simply staffing the homes properly. With enough LPNs and CNAs, caregivers will be able to attend to the needs of residents without running themselves ragged. Nurses and aides will be able to do more than the bare minimum for residents because they will have more time to do so. Instead of rushing from one resident to the next we will have more time to sit and talk with residents, showing them the love and attention everyone deserves.

Some of you may think of this as a matter of money, when in reality this is a matter of morality. Are we going to be a moral state that cares for all its people, or one that idly sits by while residents go unheard and underserved? We can do better. Please fully fund nursing homes so we can finally have the staffing we need to care for our residents. Thank you.